

Washington State Association of County Engineers

Summer Convention

June 24, 2004

WSACE Business Meeting Minutes (Continued) & Work Sessions (Wash Transp. Plan)

1. H&LP – Kathleen Davis presented information on the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP)
 - Handout of WTP overview includes nine issues for which data is being collected. (issues- preservation, efficiencies, safety, access, bottlenecks/checkpoints, economy, freight, visions and health/environment).
 - Data is being collected for 2007 plan update.
 - Expect discuss by the legislature in 2005
 - Much discussion on possibility of future funds, their distribution, accountability, and cooperation with other agencies.
2. Information handed out and presented by H&LP on accident statistics.
3. Vision of WSACE on Transportation issues/WTP and involvement presented by Scott Merriman
 - Small group needed to work with Scott and Walt
 - Ad Hoc Committee was formed with Jim Whitbread and Jeff Monsen as co-chairs.
4. H&LP presented attached power point presentation on Traffic Accident Information.
5. Steve Thomsen, Snohomish County, discussed efforts to date on working with cites for sustainable Transportation Funding.
 - This is based on the Memorandum of Understanding developed with the City Engineer Association of Washington (CEAW) developed for this year's Spring American Public Works Association (APWA) Meeting included sustainable transportation funding.
 - Discussion included:
 - a. Past initiatives have resulted in decreases in transportation funding.
 - b. Growth Management Act has resulted in capital improvement shifts from preservation and maintenance.
 - c. Need funding to be sustainable and flexible.
 - d. There is a need to complete and coordinate transportation corridors.
6. Budget was approved.
7. Jackie White gave an update of the City status of dealing with the WTP:
 - Cities have limited and/or uncoordinated data because of no required pavement management and road log requirements like counties have.
 - Accountability bill has recently resulted in cities providing pavement conditions for 70% of their arterials by 2005.
 - The following are pavement conditions from some of the larger cities:
 - a. Tacoma – 60% poor pavement condition
 - b. Seattle – 45% poor pavement condition.
 - c. Spokane 46% poor pavement condition.

- 2002 city transportation funding went to construction improvements
 - 69% of 2002 transportation revenue came from local taxes and fees
 - 22% of total city budgets of 2002 went to transportation.
 - Association of Washington Cities legislative process normally goes through a resolution process before adopting a legislative package.
8. Al King reported that five out of 39 county replies noted these needs:
 - Maintenance – 10% underfunded
 - Preservation – 40% underfunded
 - Safety – 70% underfunded.
 9. Round table discussion;
 - Lester Olson, Thurston County, is working on tort reform for transportation including setting limits of claims and admission of seat belt use as part of extent of damages and liability issues.
 - Legislative Issues include:
 - a. Transportation funding
 - b. Clarification on new motorcycle signs required for road construction.
 - c. Unfunded mandates passed on to local agencies from state and federal legislation.
 - d. How to handle all earth excavations from road maintenance and construction as contaminated (dirty dirt).
 - e. We need to compare our legislative issues with those from the cities.
 - f. Concern that Department of Revenue is requiring county hired capital construction contractors to pay use tax on county owned stock piles of gravel (contractor passes on tax to counties).
 - g. Concern that Department of Natural Resources based on gravel value are charging unreasonable prices for right of way above normal appraised highest and best use based on zoning.
 - h. Concern that the Army Corps of Engineers is increasing regulation of ditch excavation based on recent court case.